

June 2011



Santa Rosa County District 1 Newsletter

A Message From Your Commissioner

**Vice-chair & District 1
Commissioner
Jim Williamson**

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Summer officially begins June 21. I don't know about you, but it seems to me it has already begun! After waiting to see how the State Legislature was going to affect next year's budget, the board of county commissioners held our first pre-budget workshop on June 9. Due to the changes in the Florida Retirement System or FRS, which now requires an employee contribution of three percent and other reductions in the overall cost of the plan, Santa Rosa County will reap a savings of approximately \$1,830,000. This takes place on July 1 of this year.

All the constitutional officers were requested to provide a 2011/2012 fiscal year budget not greater than their 2011 budget allocation. In July we will get a better idea from the property appraiser as to what our estimated ad valorem tax revenue will be. At the moment, preliminary figures show we are looking at a 4.7 percent, or approximately \$2,158,000 reduction. Hopefully these numbers will decrease. As nobody wants to see an increase in taxes, the BOCC must continue to make the difficult decisions necessary in order to achieve a balanced budget for our county.

As a native of Santa Rosa County, it is an honor and privilege to serve all of you as your district one commissioner.

Your public servant,

**Jim Williamson
Commission Vice-chair &
District 1 Commissioner**

New Pace Community Center In the Works

Plans for a Pace Community Center are moving forward with five of the 10 architectural firms submitting plans to be interviewed by the board of county commissioners. The community center is expected to be constructed on approximately 2.7 acres of the northwest corner of the existing Santa Rosa Sportsplex located on Chumuckla Highway. Modeled after the Chumuckla Community Center and Bagdad Community Center, the center will serve as a much needed polling site for elections and would be available to the public for events. The cost of construction is to be split between district 1 and 3 recreation funds with a portion of the funding provided by the supervisor of elections. Once complete, the Pace Community Center would be managed by the Santa Rosa County Parks Department.

Project features:

- Approximately 4,000 sq. ft. building, with an approximately 2,800 sq. ft. event room, 144 sq. ft. office space, and storage area for tables, chairs, cleaning supplies, etc.
- Orientation of the building will be facing Chumuckla Highway
- Exterior of building will complement surroundings/community
- Paved parking on north side of center with access to overflow parking
- Covered porch on west and north side, to shelter users during inclement weather
- Approximately 260 sq. ft. kitchen with residential stove, refrigerator, sink, ice machine, and stainless serving/prep tables
- Constructed and located to expand to the south side when/if necessary

District 1 Road Improvements Continue

Santa Rosa County has an ongoing program to improve roads which includes road widening, road resurfacing, safety improvements and paving dirt roads.

A project in commission districts one and three that is near completion is the resurfacing of Quintette Road. The project includes resurfacing the roadway, replacement of guardrails thermoplastic striping and reflective raised pavement markers on the centerline to improve visibility. A Small County Outreach Program grant from the Florida Department of Transportation funds 75 percent of the project with the county funding the remaining 25 percent, mainly through labor and equipment usage costs.



Above: A public works crew install the guardrails on Quintette Road.

A project that will be completed during the summer months is the realignment of the west end of North Spencer Field Road to align with a new road access into the Benny Russell Park. The project will improve safety by having the park entrance road at a four-way stop intersection. Also, West Spencer Field Road will be resurfaced from just north of Benny Russell Park to U.S. Highway 90.

In a future project, Santa Rosa County has secured grant funding through the Florida Department of Transportation's Small County Outreach Program to resurface Hamilton Bridge Road from Dogwood Drive to East Spencer Field Road with the exception of a 0.85 mile segment that is in good condition. The grant funds 75 percent of the cost with the county funding the remaining 25 percent. The project will begin in Spring or Summer of 2012.

Additionally, the following district one roads were resurfaced in the current fiscal year:

- Sports Drive
- Windermere Trace
- Moors Oaks Drive
- Oban Court
- Glasgow Court
- Aberdeen Court

District one dirt road paving projects that are expected to be completed within the next six months include:

- Plum Avenue
- N. 32nd Avenue from San Martino St. to Santa Monica St.
- San Blas Street from Summer St. to the east end
- San Juan Street from N. 14th Ave. to N. 6th Ave.
- N. 30th Avenue north of Del Monte St.
- San Vair Street
- Murray Lane
- Ladda Court

Archie Glover Park Canal Dredging Project Update

With just over 200 feet of canal left to dredge, the Santa Rosa County Board of County Commission voted in May to procure the services of a new contractor to complete the project by the end of July 2011. The original contractor could not complete the job due to economic conditions beyond his control. Work will resume just after the July 4th holiday with work to take approximately two weeks. Once the dredging operations are complete, county forces will restore the 1.5 acre sediment pond along the side of I-10 to its original state as the county's in-kind contribution in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission grant requirements. A complete as-built verification survey will be performed upon completion of dredging operations.

Five Points Improvement Project Update

The Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners approved the redesign of the Five Points Improvement Project to construct a two lane rural roadway section for the new Berryhill segment this past January. They also approved a request to the Regional Transportation Planning Organization and Florida Department of Transportation to transfer \$1,000,000 in FDOT fiscal year 2013 work program from the Woodbine Road project right-of-way to the Five Points project for its design, right-of-way acquisition, and roadway construction. The Regional TPO approved the transfer request and FDOT has taken no action until they confirm the \$1,000,000 will remain in their fiscal year 2013 budget. We anticipate their decision next spring. Notice to proceed for the Five Points redesign and permitting has been issued and should be complete late spring. Construction funding decisions will be made at that time.



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Pace Recycle Site Relocated



The recycling drop off site at East Spencer Field Road and U.S. Hwy. 90 moved to a new location on June 1. The new drop off site is located next to the Pace Volunteer Fire Department at 4773 Pace Patriot Boulevard. Gulf Power, who generously allows the county to utilize this area and others throughout the county for recycle drop off points, requested the East Spencer Field Road location be moved due to safety reasons. We greatly appreciate Gulf Power and Pace Volunteer Fire Department's support of our recycle program.

Residents are reminded that recycle areas are not disposal areas for furniture or unrecyclable household garbage. Leaving trash is considered illegal dumping and can result in a \$500 fine. Santa Rosa County recycle sites accept glass bottles, steel and aluminum cans, plastic containers, paper and cardboard items which have been sorted and placed in the corresponding bin.

To learn more about recycling in Santa Rosa County, please visit www.santarosa.fl.gov/recycle.

Registration Open for One World, Many Stories @ Your Library

Calling world travelers! Hop on board for your Santa Rosa County Library's summer reading program, "One World, Many Stories," featuring wacky tales, magic, pirate and ghost stories, Native American legends, and even fairy tales – from around the world.

Stop in at your local library and pick up a flyer of summer events and a reading calendar. Just start reading at least 15 minutes each day for great prizes! Minutes read by parents to pre-schoolers may be counted. Online registration is now open at www.santarosa.fl.gov/libraries.

Explore the world at our programs from June 13 – July 22 at 11 a.m. for 3 to 5-year-olds (who are able to attend without a caregiver) and at 1 p.m. for those in K-5th grades during the last school year: Mondays at Jay Library, Tuesdays at Navarre Library, Wednesdays at Milton Library, Thursdays at Gulf Breeze Library, and Fridays at Pace Library. Program details can be found at the Children's Events Calendar. All activities are free and open to the public.

Presenters in the weekly library programs are sponsored by Friends of the Milton Library, Friends of the Navarre Library, Friends of the Gulf Breeze Library, and Friends

of the Pace Library. Featured programs include "Witty, Wiley & Wicked Stories" by Pat Nease, "Magic around the World" by Beau Broomall, "Music & Dance" by Melinda Mills, "Storyville" by the Jacksonville University Children's Theater, and "Pirates & Ghosts" by Paul Morrell and Leslie Weil.

Special thanks to Linda Holt for donating her time and talents in presenting the program, "Native American Tales-Creek Indians" and also to Pat Easterwood and the Cherokee Storytellers and Dancers for donating their time and talents in presenting the program, "Native American Tales-Cherokee Indians."

Prizes and awards are sponsored by many community sponsors: the Ridge Cinema 8, Oops Alley, Baskin Robbins – Gulf Breeze Parkway, Baskin Robbins – Pace, Naval Aviation Museum, Chick-fil-A at the Ridge, and Texas Roadhouse. If your business is interested in providing prizes for this program, please contact Margaret Chatraw, Youth Services Coordinator at (850) 623-2043.



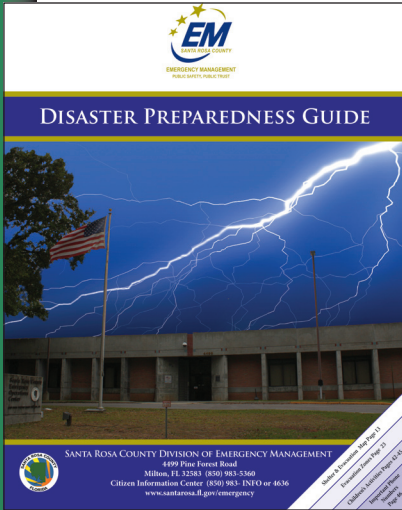
One World, Many Stories



Santa Rosa District 1 News

2011 Hurricane Season is Here, Are you Ready?

Hurricane season began on June 1 and ends November 30, have you made your storm preparations? Despite very active hurricane seasons over the last 10 years, our area has been very fortunate to have no major storm impact since Hurricane Dennis in 2005. It is easy to become complacent, but residents are reminded that no matter how many storms are predicted in a hurricane season, it only takes one storm to change our lives dramatically. Everyone has a responsibility to be self sufficient for three to five days. Do not wait until a storm enters the Gulf of Mexico to prepare.



For more information on "what to do" before, during and after a disaster pick up the free 2011 Santa Rosa County Disaster Preparedness guide available at county offices and libraries, local chambers of commerce, and local retailers including Walmart, Winn Dixie and Publix, or download an electronic version from the county's website today at www.santarosa.fl.gov. Churches, civic groups, and businesses may also request multiple copies for distribution as supplies allow by calling Santa Rosa County Emergency Management at (850) 983-5360.

Santa Rosa County Emergency Management would like to remind residents that hurricane evacuation zones changed in the spring of 2010. Hurricane evacuation zones are now identified using the letters A-E. Storms will still be classified according to wind speeds of categories 1-5, but evacuation orders will be issued using zones A-E to better account for deadly storm surge. To see how the changes affect you, see page 23 of the guide or enter your home or business address on the interactive map found at www.santarosa.fl.gov/gis. In order to implement your plans in a timely and effective manner, it is important to become familiar with these changes before a disaster strikes.

Wildfire & Brush Safety

On June 13, Governor Scott signed a declaration of a State of Emergency due to the ongoing danger of wildfires and drought conditions in Florida. This order ensures that state, regional and local governments can take necessary actions to protect the lives and property in threatened communities. The KBDI average, or Keetch-Byram drought index of 0-800, for the state is 648. According to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, there are currently 109,485 acres burning throughout Florida. If you spot a brush or wildfire, immediately call 9-1-1.

As a precaution, the Florida Division of Forestry Blackwater Forestry Center is not issuing burn permits for Santa Rosa County at this time. Although no burn ban has been instituted at this time, Santa Rosa County encourages residents to delay any burning activity until the area receives significant rainfall. With below normal rainfall expected to continue through June and temperatures significantly above normal, Santa Rosa County Emergency Management is working closely with the local division of forestry officials to daily monitor our wildfire risk. If conditions change, the board of county commissioners can take action quickly to enact any necessary burn ban.

Local fire departments are encouraging residents to dispose of debris at a landfill instead of burning vegetative debris. For many, it only takes a few minutes to take it to a landfill, and it's much safer for you and those around you. At only \$3 for up to 320 pounds of yard debris, the Central Landfill located on Da Lisa Road in Milton is a very economical means of disposal. Additionally, residents living in the new solid waste franchise area, generally in the 32563 and 32566 zip codes, will have yard waste pickup every other week beginning July 1.

For more information on fire weather conditions, contact the Division of Forestry Blackwater Forestry Center at (850) 957-6140 or check online at www.fl-dof.com/fire_weather/forecasts.html.

